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Letter dated 27 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letters of 24, 25 and 30 May 2006, I am writing to provide you with an update regarding Australia's current security assistance to Timor-Leste, provided following the request by the Government of Timor-Leste for such assistance on 24 May.

Approximately 2,650 Australian Defence Force personnel are now deployed in Timor-Leste. Approximately 200 Australian Federal Police are working with the Australian Defence Force to provide security and are also contributing to assessments on future law enforcement requirements. Our security forces continue to work in conjunction with forces from Malaysia, New Zealand and Portugal to address security problems in accordance with the requirements of the Government of Timor-Leste. An agreed protocol has been put in place to formalize cooperation arrangements between international forces.

The international security forces, working together and in close cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste, have secured the area around Dili. Humanitarian agencies are moving freely in the city, and access to the districts outside Dili has increased. The overall security situation has improved but remains tense. Dili continues to experience sporadic outbreaks of disorder, arson and looting and opportunistic violence, due predominantly to communal gang conflict. Fighting between the Armed Forces of Timor-Leste (F-FDTL) and the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL) has ceased, though tensions between the two forces remain. Progress has been made in securing the weapons of rebel military groups. The Joint Task Force (JTF) has increased its presence in key areas outside Dili to create a security environment conducive to rebel groups surrendering their weapons.

Australia will continue supporting the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste and relevant United Nations agencies in their ongoing efforts to fulfil their current mandated tasks and provide security for United Nations property. Australia will also continue to provide assistance to the United Nations in securing crime scenes and preserving evidence pertaining to the incidents on 28-29 April, 23, 24 and 25 May and other related events or issues which contributed to the recent violence. Those actions will assist the special inquiry commission that will be established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to carry out its work.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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I have written in similar terms to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Robert **Hill**